

Jack Waters

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To: Federal Communications Commission

I am writing these comments regarding the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising". Local franchising has a crucial effect on our local cities and communities. As you know, franchises ensure that local citizens and communities have control over the telecommunications and media in their area; telecommunications companies are accountable to the needs of consumers. My great concern is that without local franchises, local communities will be deprived of the means to ensure that companies charge affordable rates, respond to customer concerns, and that they provide universal service.

Local franchises are also key to the functioning of Public, Educational, and Governmental TV which provides the important service of supporting localism in the media, and the making and airing of programs that reflect the diversity of American life. This form of TV is very important in providing and maintaining a place where the public can be informed about local government affairs; and where individuals and communities can express their viewpoints and opinions. The key to democracy is a situation where the broadest cross-section of views are open to all segments of the population. Governmental TV is vital to ensuring that this is possible.

As a supporter of Public Access TV in Manhattan, I forcefully urge the FCC to support the continuation of local franchises.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Waters". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Jack Waters